

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An information communication apparatus comprising:

- a) input means for inputting data;
- b) enciphering means for enciphering the ~~transmission of information; and data;~~
- c) selection means for selecting whether or not to use said enciphering means; and
- d) ~~cipher process selection means for selecting whether or not to use said~~
enciphering means at the communication of informationtransmission means for transmitting said
enciphered data in case of being selected to use by said selection means, and for transmitting said
input data in case of being selected not to use.

2. (Currently Amended) An information communication apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said ~~cipher process selection means~~ includes: designation means for ~~designating whether or not to execute enciphering on said transmission information; and means for selecting~~
instructing encryption and selects whether or not to use said enciphering means according to the ~~designation from an information transmitting person.~~

3. (Currently Amended) An information communication apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said ~~cipher process selection means~~ includes medium discrimination means for discriminating the communication medium connecting the apparatus of the ~~information data~~

transmitting side and the apparatus of the data ~~information~~-receiving side, and selects whether or not to use said enciphering means according to the ~~connecting~~ communication medium.

4. (Currently Amended) An information communication apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said ~~cipher process~~-selection means includes cipher permission discrimination means for discriminating whether the deciphering is possible at the apparatus of the ~~information~~ data receiving side, and selects whether or not to use said enciphering means according to the result of said discrimination.

5. (Currently Amended) An information communication apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said ~~cipher process~~-selection means includes secrecy level discrimination means for discriminating the level of secrecy of said ~~transmission information~~ data, and selects whether or not to use said enciphering means according to the result of said discrimination.

6. (Currently Amended) An information communication apparatus comprising:
a) reception means for receiving data;
b) cipher-discrimination means for discriminating whether the ~~received information~~ data is enciphered; and
c) error-process means for ~~executing processing~~ a predetermined error process in case ~~according to said cipher discrimination means identifies that said received information is~~ enciphered results.

7. (Currently Amended) An information communication method comprising the steps of:

- a) inputting data;
- b) for selecting whether or not to use a cipher process for the information to be transmitted, at the transmission thereof encipher the data;
- c) enciphering the data according to said selection step; and
- d) transmitting said enciphered data in case of being selected to use by said selection step, and transmitting said input data in case of being selected not to use.

8. (Currently Amended) An information communication method according to claim 7, wherein the said selection step includes designation step of instructing encryption and selects whether or not to use the cipher process for said transmission information is made according to a designation from the information transmitting person said enciphering step according to the designation.

9. (Currently Amended) An information communication method according to claim 7, wherein the said selection step includes medium discrimination step of discriminating the communication medium connecting the apparatus of the data transmitting side and the apparatus of the data receiving side, and selects whether or not to use the cipher process for said transmission information is made said enciphering step according to a the communication medium used among different communication media enabling communication between the apparatus of the information transmitting side and the apparatus of the information receiving side.

10. (Currently Amended) An information communication method according to claim 7, wherein ~~the said selection whether or not to use the~~step includes cipher process for said transmission information is made according to the result of a permission discrimination step of discriminating whether the deciphering is possible at the apparatus of the information data receiving side, and selects whether or not to use said enciphering step according to the result of said discrimination.

C 11. (Currently Amended) An information communication method according to claim 7, wherein ~~the said selection step includes secrecy level discrimination step of discriminating the level of secrecy of said data, and selects whether or not to use the cipher process for said transmission information is made according to the level of secrecy of said transmission information~~said enciphering step according to the result of said discrimination.

12. (Currently Amended) An information communication method comprising the steps of:

- a) receiving data;
- ab) discriminating whether the ~~received information data~~is enciphered; and
- bc) ~~executing processing a predetermined error process in case said received information is discriminated to be enciphered~~according to said discrimination results.

[13-19. (Cancelled)

¹⁵
~~20~~ (Previously Presented) A computer readable memory medium storing a program for functioning a computer as means described in claim 7.

¹⁴
~~21~~ (Currently Amended) A communication apparatus comprising:

- ~~a) — enciphering means for enciphering information;~~
- ~~— b) — means for discriminating whether an intermediate transfer device is present in a transmission channel; and~~
- ~~— c) — control means for causing said enciphering means to encipher the information in case said discrimination means discriminates that the intermediate transfer device is present.~~

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- a) input means for inputting data;
- b) enciphering means for enciphering the data;
- c) discrimination means for discriminating whether an intermediate transfer device is present in a transmission path to a data destination apparatus; and
- d) transmission means for transmitting said enciphered data in case said discrimination means discriminates that an intermediate transfer is present, and for transmitting said input data in case said discrimination means discriminates that an intermediate transfer is not present.

¹⁵
~~22~~ (Original) A communication apparatus according to claim ¹⁴~~21~~, wherein said intermediate transfer device is a server.

¹⁶
~~23~~ (Currently Amended) A communication apparatus according to claim ¹⁴~~21~~, wherein said discrimination means ~~is adapted to discriminate whether said intermediate transfer~~

C¹ device is present, discriminates based on the ~~destination~~ address of the ~~information~~ said
destination apparatus.

24-33. (Cancelled)

C² 17
34. (New) An information communication apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
said selection means includes a plurality of discrimination means, and selects whether or not to
use said enciphering means, in accordance with said plurality of discrimination means.